

Date Mailed May 25, 1999

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Petition of Customers of the Junction City Exchange of
Central State Telephone Company for Extended Area
Service With Stevens Point or Wisconsin Rapids

1020-TV-102

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO investigate the petition of customers of the Junction City exchange for extended area service (EAS). On March 16, 1999, the Commission received a petition from customers of the Junction City exchange of Central State Telephone Company. The petition requests either Stevens Point (served by Ameritech Wisconsin) or Wisconsin Rapids (served by Wood County Telephone Company) as a toll-free calling area. Since Junction City customers can call the Stevens Point exchange as a local call under the extended community calling (ECC) plan, the Commission will interpret this as a petition for extended area service (EAS) between the Junction City and Stevens Point exchanges. The petition further asks that, if the Commission approves "toll-free calling" to Stevens Point, then the petitioners would like ECC with the Wisconsin Rapids exchange.

The Junction City exchange already has a sizable ECC calling area, which includes Marshfield, Mosinee and Vesper in addition to Stevens Point. Its EAS calling area is small, including only the Auburndale and Rudolph exchanges. The village of Junction City is in Portage County and most of the exchange area and customers are also in Portage County, the seat of which is Stevens Point. Stevens Point is adjacent to the Junction City exchange and the distance between them is 11 miles as measured for toll purposes. Wisconsin Rapids is not adjacent and is 16 miles from Junction City.

The petition satisfies the requirement of Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.05(1). The Commission therefore will investigate both requests cited in the petition for EAS between the Junction City and Stevens Point exchanges and for EAS between the Junction City and Wisconsin Rapids exchanges, in accordance with the EAS rules, Wis. Admin. Code chapter PSC 167. Central State Telephone Company, Ameritech Wisconsin and Wood County Telephone Company will be required to submit a study of the traffic between the respective exchanges in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.06. If the criteria of that section are satisfied, the Commission will request an economic study as provided for in Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.07, to be followed by a customer survey in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.08.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the Central State Telephone Company. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the Central State Telephone Company in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions on this matter may be addressed to case coordinator Tom Gross of the Commission staff at (608) 267-2337 or (800) 225-7729 or by e-mail: *grosst @psc.state.wi.us*.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

LLD:TAG:slg:g\notice\pending\1020-tv-102 3-30-99